



The Beacon

BY AND FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

A NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS AND COUNTERTERRORISM

The Emergency Services Training Institute is sponsoring A National Workshop on Domestic Preparedness and Counterterrorism on March 19-22, 2001 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana.

This workshop will bring together representatives from the federal agencies responsible for domestic preparedness and counterterrorism. The workshop is designed to promote the exchange of timely and essential information through presentations, panel discussions, workshops and small-group work. Federal representatives will address the availability of resources and the integration of authority and assets. The representatives will also be available to listen to you and your concerns for your community.

Issues to be discussed will include:

- ☐ Current and forecasted trends in terrorism
- ☐ Lessons learned on American soil
- ☐ Coordination of the local, state, and federal response to WMD
- ☐ The National Strategy debate
- ☐ Congressional initiatives
- ☐ Funding, equipment, and training availability
- ☐ Communications and systems inter-operability
- ☐ Infrastructure protection
- ☐ Cost recovery
- ☐ Healthcare system response
- ☐ The role of public and elected officials
- ☐ Crisis v. consequence management

Who should attend this workshop?
Emergency managers, emergency responders, chiefs, communication officers, public health officials, health

care providers, hospital administrators, public works directors, military commanders, prosecutors, and corporate CEOs and security directors.

Presenters will represent a variety of federal agencies including CDC, DoD, DOJ, FBI, FEMA, EPA, NDPO, OSLDPS.

The Ernest N. Morial Exhibit Hall will feature over 200 vendors promoting their specific products and services in equipment, decontamination, communications, and training.

For more information, call 1-866-878-8900, or visit the website at www.wmdnationalworkshop.com.

NDPO INFORMATION SHARING TOOLS

The NDPO's Information Sharing/Outreach program has developed several tools to disseminate Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) preparedness information directly to federal, state and local emergency responders. These **free** tools are available to all members of the emergency response and public health communities.

Community Empowerment – The Common Communication Link (CCL)

The NDPO maintains the CCL, using Law Enforcement Online (LEO), to serve as a national standard for WMD preparedness communications and information sharing efforts. The CCL is designed to empower the emergency response community by connecting it to the NDPO and partner sites through electronic links.

The system has two components: communication tools and information resources.

Communication Tools

The CCL offers valuable communication tools, including:

Chat Program – “Chat” works like a party line enabling a group of individuals to communicate on a common network while a moderator tracks the conversation. The results of the meeting can be printed and memorialized. The “Chat” may be a regularly scheduled meeting to discuss preparedness issues or it could be a meeting between Joint Terrorism Task Force members.

E-mail – E-mail can be used to disseminate information regarding various preparedness topics.

News Groups – News groups allow users to post questions, opinions, or information. News groups can be created for discussions of specific topics such as biological threat agents, chemical threat agents, response protocols, and equipment matters. Currently, the NDPO has seven newsgroups on equipment, training, information sharing, health/medical, exercises, equipment trading post, and planning.

Trading Post – The CCL includes a trading post that can be used as a “community bulletin board,” where members in need of surplus equipment and/or other items can post their requests.

Information Resources

The CCL enhances the NDPO’s information sharing initiatives by including a wide array of information resources:

Special Bulletins – Special Bulletins and Information Bulletins are examples of preparedness information that has been useful in responding to a WMD threat.

The Beacon – The NDPO’s newsletter is located on the CCL.

Preparedness Information – WMD-related articles, field guides, job aides, and other information will be made available on the CCL.

Distance Learning Modules – The distance learning section of the CCL, complete with instructional

feedback, will provide online topical learning modules that can be used day or night at the user’s own pace.

Electronic Links – Links to federal interagency partner sites and other related sites enable the end user to gather information on federal assistance in areas such as planning, training, equipment, exercises, information sharing, grants, and health and medical issues regarding WMD preparedness and response planning.

End Result

By creating the CCL system, the NDPO:

- Empowers the state and local responders with the capability to communicate and disseminate information.
- Provides continuity of information and access to communication tools.
- Improves preparedness and response planning.
- Augments existing on-line systems by broadening their reach to the NDPO clearinghouse.
- Provides an economic forum for the discussion of preparedness.
- Encourages information sharing and cooperation.

NDPO Internet Site

The NDPO's Internet site (www.ndpo.gov) provides unclassified information about the office and WMD preparedness to the emergency response community and the general public. The site is designed to enhance the public's awareness of the NDPO and the government's efforts in WMD preparedness. The site includes historical background on the creation of the NDPO, the NDPO Blueprint, the federal WMD training compendium, *The Beacon* newsletter, Information Bulletins and links to federal, state, local, and academic web pages dedicated to WMD preparedness.

Special Bulletins

The NDPO's Special Bulletins serve as important public safety notifications regarding WMD matters, trends, or issues that may have a direct impact on the emergency response community. The bulletins are disseminated to professional trade organizations and federal partner agencies, which then distribute them to their public safety sector contacts in the field.

Information Bulletins

Information Bulletins highlight important preparedness-related information that is not based on operational or threat matters. The bulletins enable the NDPO to disseminate information quickly to the community that may not be appropriate for a Special Bulletin or *The Beacon* newsletter because of its content or length. The bulletins are disseminated to professional trade organizations and federal partner agencies, which then distribute them to their public safety sector contacts in the field.

NDPO Helpline

In October 1999, the NDPO established an electronic helpline at ndpo@leo.gov. The helpline serves as a responsive communications link between the NDPO and the emergency response community. Stakeholders are invited to use the address to ask questions pertaining to WMD preparedness issues such as training, planning, exercises, equipment, information sharing, and health and medical.

List Serve

The NDPO established an e-mail list serve to disseminate information, such as *The Beacon*, bulletins, and announcements directly to emergency responders. If you wish to be put on the list serve, please e-mail the NDPO at ndpo@leo.gov.

For more information about the NDPO's information sharing initiatives, please visit the NDPO's website at www.ndpo.gov, e-mail us at ndpo@leo.gov, or call us at 202-324-9025.

NDPO WEB SITE UPDATE

The NDPO has included a link to all state and local training information that is provided through the state Emergency Management Agencies (<http://www.ndpo.gov/statetrain.htm>). The NDPO's web site also provides a link to all state Emergency Management Agency web pages (<http://www.ndpo.gov/stateema.htm>).

THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RESCUE TRAINING CENTER

Texas A&M University System
**A Member of the Domestic Preparedness
Consortium**

The National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC) is based in College Station, Texas. We are part of the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and the Texas A&M University System (TAMUS). Additionally, the center is a member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) comprising the following entities:

- Center for Domestic Preparedness – Fort McClellan, Alabama
- Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education – Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center – Socorro, New Mexico
- National Exercise, Test, and Training Center – Nevada Test Site

This article will focus on several terrorism and WMD courses the NERRTC offers to the emergency response community.

THREAT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The NERRTC Threat and Risk Assessment Course was designed and developed as part of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) curriculum to improve the capability of jurisdictions to combat terrorism. This course is one of many focused on the training of emergency first responders at the awareness, operations, technician, and incident command levels. This course is conducted at the incident command level.

Threat and Risk Assessment Course

The course will bring together critical personnel within a jurisdiction who would be required to prevent, mitigate, manage and resolve a WMD event. These individuals will work together in multidiscipline teams to learn and conduct the multidimensional threat and risk assessment process within the jurisdiction. Additionally, they will apply

the information during hands-on activities to include realistic multi-media scenarios.

The course addresses both the active and proactive responses to terrorism involving WMD. The active response is the most difficult and perhaps the most needed. The proactive approach focuses on prevention, which may be the most important type measure we can take. Each course is three days in length.

Today's terrorists, whether domestic or international, act on a greater variety of motives than ever before. More importantly, terrorists may gain access to WMD, including nuclear devices, biological weapons and chemical weapons. In preparing the jurisdiction's plans against terrorism, administrators, and managers of emergency responders must clearly identify the strengths and weaknesses of their respective organizations. They also must recognize the level, within their community, of knowledge, skills and resources required for combating terrorism. In particular, acts of terrorism associated with WMD.

The primary goal of this course is to develop and enable multidiscipline teams to conduct a thorough Threat and Risk Assessment for their jurisdiction. The NERRTC Multidimensional Threat and Risk Assessment Process is one effective way to do this. This course will use existing and new assessment information to determine the capability of the jurisdiction in the event a terrorist act involving a weapon of mass destruction is deployed against targets and people within the jurisdiction. Additionally, administrators, and managers of emergency responders will learn to conduct and manage Threat Assessments for their organizations. This assessment process will enable the jurisdiction to prioritize requirements and needs and identify solutions.

Entry Level Objectives

The participants must occupy a position as described below. The participant must have a working knowledge of the jurisdiction's Emergency Operations Plan and completed a *Terrorism and WMD Awareness Course*.

Threat and Risk Assessment Course Participant Guidelines

The course is designed for emergency first responders, administrators, managers, supervisors, and front line staff from the seven functional areas: Fire

Protection, Law Enforcement, Public Health, Public Works, Emergency Management, Private Sector and Military. The course is limited to 42 participants, 6 participants from each of the disciplines / services delineated below.

Description of Disciplines

- **Fire Protection** – Firefighters, HAZMAT Specialist, Rescue Specialist, Arson Investigators, and EMS if located within the fire service.
- **Law Enforcement** – Patrol Officers, Investigators, EOD, and SWAT.
- **Public Health** – Hospital personnel, EMS if located within the health service, city, county, state health departments, Red Cross and Coroners Office.
- **Emergency Management** – City, county and state emergency managers and their support staff.
- **Public Works** – City, county utilities to include water, electric, wastewater, streets etc.
- **Private Sector** – Local businesses that are significant to the jurisdiction and are considered to be the most vulnerable or most probable targets.
- **Military** – State military assets such as the National Guard and Federal assets such as the Reserves. Personnel from this discipline should be those that are most likely to be called upon to assist this specific jurisdiction during a terrorism/WMD incident.

Starting the Process

If you desire to schedule the Threat & Risk Assessment Course, please contact us at the enclosed numbers/email. NERRTC will have a Threat & Risk Assessment team member schedule you for the course. We have specific information for the point of contact that will assist in the planning stages for this course and we will send it upon course date confirmation.

Program Manager: Doug Smith – 800-423-8433, e-mail: Doug.Smith@teexmail.tamu.edu.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE OPERATIONS AND PLANNING FOR WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Course Overview

This course will enhance EMS personnel and medical professionals' skills in order to ensure proper patient

triage, transportation and treatment in the event of exposure to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) or biological, nuclear, incendiary, chemical, and explosive (B-NICE) weapons. Exercises conducted in a WMD scenario will reinforce classroom lectures and interaction. First responders will use their training to demonstrate proper techniques for detection and monitoring, triage, mass decontamination, treatment and stabilization. In addition, course participants will receive training on the proper techniques for protecting themselves and limiting cross-contamination.

Intended Audience

The course is designed to assist a jurisdiction in developing an EMS incident management team capable of planning for and responding to a WMD or terrorist incident. To facilitate this process, jurisdictions are encouraged to send a balanced combination of personnel from the emergency response organizations within their community. At minimum, participants should include EMS personnel, health care professionals, physicians and medical center personnel. If desired, personnel from other city, county, state and federal EMS agencies located within the jurisdiction may also attend the course.

Maximum class enrollment – 40

This course is intended for response personnel and support staff as well as administrators, managers and first-line supervisors responsible for responding to any incident involving WMD.

NERRTC Contributions

NERRTC will provide each jurisdiction with the following:

- The two-person instructor team.
- All instructional materials and handouts.
- Certificates of completion for all course participants.
- Funding for the instructor team (including travel and per diem costs) and all instructional materials.

There are no direct costs or course costs to the jurisdiction. NERRTC and TEEX do *not*, however, cover the costs of jurisdictional salaries nor travel and per diem costs for course participants, should they be required.

For more information, contact Nancy Sheffield at 409-458-2261, or e-mail at Nancy.Sheffield@teexmail.tamu.edu.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR INTEGRATED EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Course Overview

The Leadership Development for Integrated Emergency Response Program is a national executive development program for local government officials and civic leaders involved in the management, coordination, or delivery of local, state, and national emergency services. Participants represent fire, law enforcement, emergency medical service, rescue, hazardous materials, public health, and public works disciplines, as well as volunteer organizations. The program examines policymaking and crisis management at all levels of government.

Course Objectives

The traditional roles of first responders, managers, and local government officials are changing to meet the increasing complexity of serving the public. Personnel now face new challenges when dealing with weapons of mass destruction or terrorism incidents in their own communities. Developed by the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), its National Emergency Response & Rescue Training Center (NERRTC) and The Bush School of Government & Public Service at Texas A&M University, the Leadership Development for Integrated Emergency Response Program is designed to develop and enhance the leadership and management skills of public officials. The program combines academic research and theory with practical hands-on experience in a curriculum that enables participants to effectively manage internal organizational challenges and coordinate with multiple agencies during public emergencies, including acts of domestic and international terrorism.

Unlike other programs that deal primarily with responses to natural disasters, the Leadership Development for Integrated Emergency Response Program addresses the specific tactical and strategic challenges that emergency managers and jurisdiction officials face when dealing with a WMD/terrorism incident. Additionally, this program combines the skills and experiences of the various emergency

responders, managers, and public officials in a team environment and enhances the learning experience for all participants.

For the complete course outline and learning objectives list, please visit the TEEX website at <http://teexweb.tamu.edu>.

NEW EVENTS CALENDAR ON THE CCL

The Law Enforcement Online events calendar has been completely revised and expanded. Now, any LEO user can post notices of meetings, conferences, etc. This new feature makes it easy to stay informed about what is happening in the emergency response community by making frequent visits to the calendar. The link for national and state events can be found at the bottom of the main calendar page.

To find the calendar, go to the NDPO Private Menu on the CCL. The calendar button is located in the middle of the page. The NDPO urges all registered LEO users to post state, local, and national events online. If you have any questions, please e-mail us at ndpo@leo.gov.

THE BEACON STAFF WELCOMES YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Do you have an idea for an article on domestic preparedness? Is your community working on a new WMD preparedness project? Why don't you share your thoughts and experiences with the rest of the emergency response community? *The Beacon* staff is dedicated to publishing useful and relevant information for the public safety sector. We welcome articles relating to all facets of WMD preparedness, including training, planning, exercises, equipment, health and medical, and information sharing. We also welcome suggestions on improving the newsletter.

If you wish to contribute to *The Beacon*, please contact a member of the staff at the numbers/e-mail addresses listed below.

Editor's Note: Items published in *The Beacon* are for informational purposes for the emergency response community. The material submitted does not necessarily imply concurrence from the interagency community represented at the NDPO.

EXPANSION OF INFORMATION ON THE COMMON COMMUNICATION LINK (CCL)

In an effort to become a clearinghouse of WMD preparedness information, NDPO staff has been working to increase the links on our CCL.

The new links increase the content on the planning, training, equipment, exercises, health/medical, and information sharing program pages. There is also a new page that focuses on the new NDPO State and Local Advisory Group, which includes the group's by-laws, charter, meeting minutes, and directory.

If you are a registered user of the CCL, please review the new pages and send suggestions or recommendations to the site moderator, Rich Sanders, at rsanders@leo.gov.

***The Beacon* is published monthly for members of the emergency response community. Please send articles, comments, feedback, and letters to the Information Sharing Team at the address listed below.**

**National Domestic Preparedness Office
Thomas G. Kinnally, Administrator
935 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Rm. 5214
Washington, D.C. 20535
202-324-9025, Fax: 202-324-2224**

Visit us online at www.ndpo.gov.

NDPO ONLINE RESOURCES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS:

- ☐ Helpline – ndpo@leo.gov
- ☐ Law Enforcement Online Newsgroups
- ☐ Common Communication Link
- ☐ List Serve for monthly e-mailings

For more information about these resources, e-mail us at ndpo@leo.gov.